

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
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R 031606Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6475

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1860

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, MX  
SUBJECT: GRADE LEVEL OF DEFENSE ATTACHE

DEPT PASS SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA, DIA, DA

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IS CONSIDERING DOWNGRADING THE DATT POSITION AT THIS MISSION FROM THE LEVEL OF BRIGADIER GENERAL TO THAT OF COLONEL. I CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL MOST UNWISE FOR THE REASONS SET FORTH BELOW.

2. AS A COUNTRY WHICH BORDERS THE U.S., MEXICO HAS A DE FACTO "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" PREDICATED UPON GEORGRAPHIC AND HISTORICAL FACTS OF LIFE. THIS RELATIONSHIP IS CLEARLY RECOGNIZED BY THE USG IN THE SIZE, DIVERSITY, AND CLASS OF THIS MISSION. THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN MEXICO IS A PILLAR OF THE UNIQUE MEXICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM, FULLY COMPARABLE IN IMPORTANCE TO THE LABOR SECTOR OR TO THE DOMINANT POLITICAL PARTY (PRI). THE MEXICAN MILITARY ARE IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. IN SIGNIFICANT WAYS, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS THE STRONG AND CONTINUING SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE MEXICAN ARMY TO THE BILATERAL EFFORT TO ELIMINATE THE NARCOTIC TRAFFIC FROM MEXICO TO THE U.S.

3. THE MEXICAN MILITARY (AND THE GOM IN GENERAL) ARE AS CONSCIOUS OF RANK AND AS JEALOUS OF THEIR STANDING IN U.S. EYES AS ANY OTHER MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN LATIN AMERICA.

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THEY ARE AWARE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT U.S. GENERAL OFFICERS

ARE ASSIGNED IN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, AND THE FACT THAT THESE OFFICERS ARE ON MAAG/MILGP ASSIGNMENTS RATHER THAN AS DATTS HAS LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TO MEXICANS. REDUCTION OF THE GRADE LEVEL OF THE DATT ASSIGNED TO MEXICO CITY WOULD OFFEND THE SECRETARIAT OF DEFENSE AND, I HAVE NO DOUBT, THE MOST SENIOR LEVELS OF THE GOM.

4. I CAN APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN A REDUCTION OF THE NUMBERS OF GENERAL OFFICERS IN THE U.S. ARMY AS WELL AS THE NEEDS WHICH MUST BE MET BY THE ARMY IN FULFILLING ITS MANY RESPONSIBILITIES WITH FEWER GENERALS. I NONETHELESS FEEL THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DATT POSITION AT THIS POST IS SUCH THAT IT IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST TO CONTINUE TO FILL THAT POSITION AT THE BRIGADIER GENERAL LEVEL. MOREOVER, I STRONGLY URGE THAT THE REPLACEMENT FOR THE PRESENT INCUMBENT BE SELECTED WITH GREAT CARE. THE PRESENT DATT HAS DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED EXTREMELY GOOD CONTACT WITH MEXICAN MILITARY OFFICERS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. HE HAS ENTREE AT THAT LEVEL AND ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THIS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THIS MISSION. I HOPE THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WILL HAVE THE RANK AS WELL AS THE VERY HIGH PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDING LANGUAGE AND AREA BACKGROUND WHICH WILL GUARANTEE A SIMILAR EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICAN MILITARY LEADERS.  
JOVA

NOTE BY OCT: MEXICO 1860 NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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